

Second day of the Fourteenth Meeting
MC(14) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 11/06
FUTURE TRANSPORT DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation in the OSCE area, in particular those made in the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and in other relevant OSCE documents,

Bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to Economic and Environmental Forums,

Recognizing the vital importance of secure transportation networks and of transport development to the enhancement of regional economic co-operation and stability in the OSCE area,

Noting the crucial role of transport in promoting trade and generating economic development across the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the summary conclusions and policy recommendations of the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum and welcoming the continuity achieved in different follow-up activities such as:

- The Workshop on Urban Transport Security, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 May 2006,
- The joint International Labour Organization-OSCE workshop on security in ports, held in Antwerp, Belgium, from 4 to 6 October 2006,
- The workshop on transport, security and environment held in Tonsberg, Norway, from 16 to 18 October 2006,
- The joint OSCE/UNECE seminar on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Good, held in Moscow on 17 and 18 October 2006,

Acknowledging that co-operation both between States and between relevant stakeholders is crucial to address transportation challenges adequately, and recognizing that

an integrated approach incorporating capacity-building activities and appropriate follow-up is needed to achieve results in the longer term,

Convinced that the OSCE can support, strengthen and complement existing initiatives in the field of transport by providing a relevant framework for dialogue based on its comprehensive mandate for security and co-operation,

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE structures and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening co-operation with other international organizations and institutions on a case by case basis, in close consultation with participating States,

Recalling the Platform for Co-operative Security, as an essential element of the Charter for European Security of 1999, to further strengthen co-operation and synergy between the OSCE and other international organizations with a view to further promoting comprehensive security within the OSCE area,

Noting that landlocked developing countries face unique challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea, their dependence on transit services and difficulties related to market access,

Taking into account the joint statement of the delegations of the Central Asian participating States of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan made at the Fourteenth Economic Forum,

Acknowledging that addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries is an immediate concern and requires a long-term process,

Welcoming and recognizing the importance of the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action (APA): Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Co-operation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Co-operation in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and further welcoming the role of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) in this respect,

Endeavouring to support the mid-term review of the implementation of the APA,

Further recognizing the challenges and opportunities that transportation development and transportation security present to participating States and the need for more co-ordination and exchange of best practices,

Affirming the significant role of the OSCE Maastricht Strategy Document, in which participating States committed themselves to closer coordination in the fields of economic co-operation, good governance, sustainable development and protecting the environment,

Considering that, within its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE could make contributions in the field of transport by, *inter alia*:

- Supporting the adoption and implementation of legal instruments and other tools developed by relevant organizations related to transportation and trade facilitation,
 - Providing political support and a framework for dialogue with regard to the further development of transport corridors and networks without prejudice to the transportation-related interests of any participating State, and by playing a catalytic role between national and international actors,
 - Paying due attention to transport related transit issues, with a particular eye on the special needs of landlocked developing countries, and by facilitating dialogue and co-operation among the OSCE participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation,
 - Encouraging the development of stronger partnerships between participating States and with relevant international bodies that focus on transport, in particular transport development and transport security,
 - Promoting a wide dissemination and implementation of best practices and standards developed by relevant organizations in the field of transport security, and by promoting better co-ordination in this field among participating States and partner organizations,
 - Promoting good public and corporate governance and by combating corruption in the area of transport and trade facilitation, in particular with regard to customs and cross-border operations and infrastructure development,
 - Making full and regular use of the relevant provisions of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept,
 - Promoting and facilitating public-private dialogue with regard to transportation issues,
 - Emphasizing the linkages between transport development and the environment and promoting environmentally sustainable transportation choices, and
 - Promoting dialogue on transport and broader transport-related issues, within the context of the conflict settlement processes in the OSCE area,
1. Encourages participating States to enhance co-operation amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters, notably by making use of the existing internationally recognized legal instruments, standards and best practices;
 2. Endeavours to enhance the existing co-operation with the UNECE, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, in particular by providing political support for:
 - 2.1 The implementation of relevant conventions among participating States, drawing upon the example developed in the framework of the Pilot Project on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 21 October 1982; and by

- 2.2 The implementation of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects' Master Plan, and of the Euro-Asian transport links project Phase II;
3. Tasks the Permanent Council to promote co-operation among participating States and to take initiatives to strengthen the dialogue on transport within the OSCE, including by reviewing, when appropriate, transport-related commitments on a regular basis as foreseen in the existing review mechanism, with a view to take specific actions where the need would arise;
4. Tasks the Secretariat, in close consultation with participating States with strengthening co-operation with relevant partner organizations where the OSCE could offer comparative advantages, expertise and added value, aimed at capacity-building, exchange of best practices, raising awareness, and enhancing the transport dialogue among the OSCE participating States;
5. Tasks the OSCE structures, within the framework of their respective mandates, to support the participating States, upon their request, in their implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, and in the mobilization of international assistance taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
6. Decides to support the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APA) in the OSCE area with a view to improving the transit potential of landlocked developing countries by strengthening the regional political dialogue and by supporting the relevant UN structures in their capacity-building programmes;
7. Encourages the Secretariat to strengthen co-operation with the UN-OHRLLS in this field, notably in the framework of the mid-term review of the APA;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council and the Secretariat with providing OSCE participating States, upon their request, with assistance on the implementation of the APA, and with helping them to mobilize the necessary international assistance, taking into account the role played by relevant international organizations;
9. Welcomes the offer by the Government of Tajikistan to host in 2007 an OSCE conference on the prospects for development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015;
10. Decides to convene the above-mentioned conference, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, in close co-operation with the Government of Tajikistan and together with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, with the aim of raising awareness and enhancing the political dialogue on the development of transportation in and through Central Asia including the adjacent OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation;

Tasks the Secretariat to report to the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council on the ongoing preparatory process;

11. Tasks the Permanent Council and the Secretariat and the OSCE field presences, within their existing mandates, with continuing to support participating States in their efforts to create proper conditions for a favourable business climate, inevitably linked with transport development, by promoting the Best Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate launched in 2006, and by organizing round tables with the business community to promote transparency and address corruption issues;
12. Endeavours to develop further avenues of co-operation between participating States, building on international conventions to which they are parties and mutually agreed upon standards, with a view to enhancing the enforcement of national legislation related to the illegal transport of hazardous waste;
13. Encourages participating States to consider signing and ratifying international agreements aimed at reducing the negative impact on the environment of economic activities, and in particular that of transport activities, and urges participating States that are parties to such agreements to implement them;
14. Encourages participating States to stimulate, apply and share best practices in the field of technological progress aimed at reducing the negative impact on the environment of economic activities, and in particular that of transport activities.